

March 11, 2013

The Honorable Janice Brewer
Arizona Governor
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Honorable Janice Brewer,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Executive Management Team of the Winslow Indian Health Care Center (WIHCC), I write this letter in support of your proposal to align Arizona AHCCCS Medicaid Eligibility with the New Affordable Care Act. Your support to the people of Arizona including the Navajo people who are in dire need of health care services is much appreciated, as many cannot afford health care coverage. The population of the southwest region of the Navajo Nation is growing very fast and the health care needs are tremendous. In order to meet these needs, we must do everything humanly possible to ensure the people get the proper health care needs therefore we support your efforts.

WIHCC is an ambulatory care facility and a non-profit corporation, chartered under the laws of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Council authorized WIHCC Board of Directors to operate the health program that serves the people in the southwest region of the Navajo Nation. We assumed responsibility for the healthcare programs by contracting with the Indian Health Service (IHS) under the P.L. 93-638, Indian Self-Determination Act on September 01, 2002. We have successfully transitioned from federal government to a tribal operation. Although WIHCC has many successes, there are still many health issues such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, strokes, and other devastating diseases that are extremely costly. I know you are very familiar with the health needs of the Navajo people and the many challenges that we face.

WIHCC provides services to approximately 17,000 people. The patient visits and the workload continue to increase significantly, especially within the last 10 years. WIHCC continues to support the added workload due to the population growth, including expanded services. The added workload has contributed to the very overcrowded conditions at Winslow which has hampered the ability of the staff to provide quality service. For example, 80,000 patients were seen by the primary care providers (doctors) in 2012 compared to 65,000 in 2002. The grand total patients seen in all the WIHCC programs in 2012 reached over 160,000 which include all visits such as Dental, Behavioral Health, Pharmacy, etc.

There are many individuals who are not eligible for AHCCCS due to the implementation of the Single Childless Adult restriction and WIHCC is doing everything it can to provide the direct services to these individual with very limited funding, including the Contract Health Services funds which has strict guidelines. Because WIHCC is an ambulatory care facility, many patients are referred to outside / private facilities for complex or specialty care. Many of these patients are identified as childless adults and are not

Hand Delivered
GOVERNORS OFFICE 8TH FLR
2013 MAR 12 P 12:39



Robert Salabye, President
Board of Directors

500 North Indiana Avenue
Winslow, Arizona 86047

eligible for support from Medicaid but resorts to using federal Contract Health Service (CHS) funds. Currently, the FY 2013 WIHCC CHS funds have already been depleted.

We hope and pray that all leaders in Arizona support Govern Brewer's proposal, so we can continue to provide quality and safe health care to the people of the southwest region of the Navajo Nation. We want to adequately meet the current need and expand services. We know that with expansion, Arizona could receive close to \$8 billion in federal funds over the next four years and \$1.6 billion in the first year which will benefit thousands of patients in Arizona and will help Arizona economy.

We appreciate all you due and support your efforts. Please feel free to contact me for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Salabye, President
Board of Directors

cc: *WIHCC Board of Directors*
WIHCC Management Team



Phone: (928) 289-6100

Fax: (928) 289-3447